For Release to Morning Newspapers
August 9, 1939

JOHN D. NEWSOM APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL WRITERS PROGRAM

The appointment of John D. Newsom, of Detroit, as Director of the Federal Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration, to succeed Henry G. Alsberg, was announced today by Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner. The appointment is effective immediately.

Mr. Newsom has been director of the Federal Writers' Project in Michigan since June, 1939.

Mr. Newsom was born in Shanghai, China, on November, 16, 1893, the son of an American businessman in that city. Upon the death of his father a year later, he moved with his mother to the United States, where he remained until he was three years old. His family then went to live in Amiens, France, a small city just outside Paris, and his early education was obtained there and in Paris. He later pursued graduate study at Cambridge University, England, as a research student in anthropology, thereafter devoting a year to field study in the Melanesian Islands.

He served in the British army for the duration of the World War, being among the first American citizens to enlist with the Crown forces. He returned to the United States in 1919 and worked for a time on various newspapers and magazines. He later devoted his full time to free lance writing and is the author of a number of short stories which have been published here and in England and of a novel, "Garde a Vous".

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