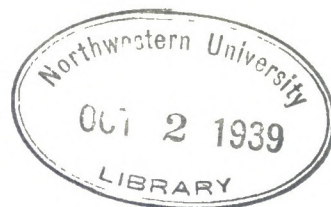


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION



For Immediate Release
Wednesday, August 23, 1939

MURRAY REQUESTS LEAVE OF ABSENCE AS MISSOURI WPA ADMINISTRATOR;
E. M. BASYE APPOINTED ACTING CHIEF

Howard O. Hunter, Acting Commissioner of the Work Projects Administration, today announced that he had granted a request from Matthew S. Murray, WPA Administrator for Missouri, for leave of absence and had appointed E. M. Basye as Acting Administrator.

Mr. Murray wrote Mr. Hunter August 21 requesting leave without prejudice pending final determination of an investigation of his income tax returns.

Approving the request, Mr. Hunter made the change effective August 23. Mr. Basye has been Deputy Administrator of WPA in Missouri.

Mr. Murray's letter follows:

"In view of the persistent rumors about the activity of the investigators of the Bureau of Internal Revenue now investigating my income tax, I believe that my request for a leave of absence without prejudice until this case is finally determined is for the best interest of the Work Projects Administration.

"I wish to state that I have the highest regard for Colonel Harrington, yourself, and those at the head of the WPA, and I am proud of the work done by the Work Projects Administration in Missouri."

In reply, Mr. Hunter wrote:

"I have your letter of August 21 in which you request a leave of absence without prejudice pending final determination of an investigation now being conducted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue of your income tax.

"Your request is granted and you will be in a leave of absence status beginning Wednesday, August 23. I am appointing Mr. E. M. Basye as Acting Administrator of the Work Projects Administration in Missouri during your absence.

"I appreciate the remarks which you made in your letter concerning Colonel Harrington and me and I agree with you that the work done by the WPA in Missouri has been of a high character and great public value."

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