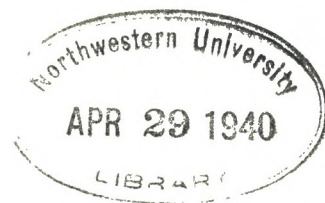


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

For Release to Morning Newspapers,
Monday, April 29, 1940.

HARRINGTON URGES COOPERATION IN NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT WEEK

Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner of Work Projects, disclosed today with the approach of National Employment Week that 1,250,000 workers have left the WPA rolls voluntarily during the last 12 months.

He urged that the week, proclaimed by President Roosevelt for May 1 to 8, be made a period for accelerating the return of WPA project employees to a regular place in the industry and business of their communities.

Nearly half of the 2,000,000 persons now on the WPA rolls, the Commissioner said, are 40 years of age or older and belong to the group of stable and experienced workers, many with heavy family responsibilities, with which Mr. Roosevelt's proclamation is especially concerned.

"It has been the purpose of the Work Projects Administration not only to provide a living for needy, employable persons and public improvements for the communities which sponsor our projects," Colonel Harrington said, "but also to retain the habits of work which an employer naturally expects of the men and women he hires.

"The fact that WPA project employees are now working—maintaining their skills on the kind of jobs for which their experience fits them—makes our rolls a natural reservoir of labor from which employers may draw during the spring seasonal increase in work and especially at this time when the drive for jobs is highlighted by President Roosevelt's proclamation of National Employment Week.

"I urge those who can provide employment to appreciate the uniform desire of 2,000,000 men and women on WPA to go back to regular jobs in industry and business. The fact that these people are anxious and able to leave WPA for private jobs is well illustrated by the fact that an average of approximately 100,000 have been leaving voluntarily each month, even in times of declining industrial activity. About 1,250,000 left of their own accord during the last 12 months, and it must be assumed that most of them accepted jobs elsewhere.

"It is true that many of these persons have had to return to WPA, but they do not hesitate to accept even temporary work for a private employer. The regulations under which a man, when a new job is terminated after some days, weeks or even months, may return to WPA without red tape, make him glad for the opportunity of private employment.

"The President has given particular emphasis to the situation of seasoned workers of 40 and over. Nearly half of our rolls are made up of such people, and this is not by their choice. Experience is on their side, and we have found generally that they are able workers driven by heavy family responsibilities. To overlook them this week and hereafter will not lessen their misfortune."

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