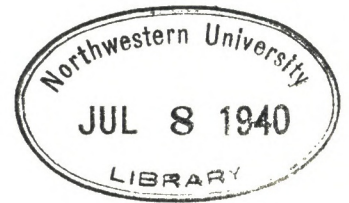


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION



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HARRINGTON ANNOUNCES \$17,000,000 TRAINING PROJECT FOR DEFENSE WORKERS

Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner of Work Projects, today announced approval of a \$17,281,000 vocational project to train 50,000 WPA workers and up to 100,000 other persons in established public vocational schools this summer for jobs in industries essential to National Defense.

In keeping with its nature and importance at this time, the project is the first approved by the President in the new 1941 fiscal year. Set up under a special provision passed by Congress, it also is the first vocational training project in the WPA program and the first major step in the national defense training program.

The nationwide project is sponsored by the National Defense Advisory Commission. As co-sponsor, the Office of Education of the Federal Security Agency will make available \$7,500,000 in addition to \$9,781,340 allotted from WPA funds. Regular staffs of school officials will be responsible for actual conduct of the classes with their regular vocational training facilities during July, August and September.

Colonel Harrington said the WPA will be responsible for selecting 50,000 workers from its rolls in states where need for the program is found. WPA will also handle payrolls, keep time and necessary statistical records and provide auxiliary personnel.

The Office of Education, as a sponsor, will obtain and pay for the use of vocational training school buildings and equipment and pay the salaries of teachers and supervisory personnel.

"This training is on a strictly voluntary basis," Colonel Harrington said. "Whether the trainees come from our project rolls or whether they come from among others on the rolls of public employment offices or any other agencies, they should become highly important to our expanding defense industries.

"I have already directed that a special register be prepared and made available to the Bureau of Employment Security and the training schools to show at a glance in every community those WPA workers who are already qualified for work in defense industries or will be suitable for enrollment as trainees under this program. For many the work will be in the nature of 'refresher' courses. Others will receive more basic training, but all of the WPA workers sent to school will be qualified for the training by virtue of their work habits and aptitude for the occupation for which training is given."

Suitable candidates include especially those who have had some experience as automobile mechanics, electricians, cabinet makers, draftsmen, sheet metal workers, welders, pattern makers, foundry men and forgers or in scores of other fields of employment.

Fred R. Rauch, Assistant Commissioner of Work Projects in charge of employment will direct WPA's share in the program. His division is prepared to cooperate closely with representatives of the Office of Education in the various states and with local school officials in inaugurating the program during the next several weeks, Colonel Harrington said.

Local advisory committees, consisting of representatives of industry and labor, will consult with the vocational school authorities on the types of training needed to fill the needs of the defense industries.